Lectures on Therapeutics. Jany 5. 1807

Gent:^n

We come now to apply the principles taught in our physiology, & pathology to the cure of diseases. This is the most important part of a medical education, for all that is taught of Anato=my - the Institutes of Medicine, Chemistry natural history & the Materia Medica is valuable to a physician only in proportion as it teaches him to ~~to pro~~ cure diseases. The whole of those branches of Science ~~towards~~ =

may be considered as the raw materials only of the great fabric of medicine, - in which I include surgery - and midwifery as well as the practice of physic. I know it is com=
=mon with some physicians to appre=
=ciate the elementary branches of a medical education which have been mentioned, at the expense of those which are of a practical nature. As well might they prefer the alphabet to language, or a gram=
=mar, to a book composed by all its rules. a medical education may be compared to an Arch. It rests not upon a part, but upon the whole of the materials

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that compose it. a knowledge of all its branches ~~are~~ is necessary to constitute a physician & the man who attempts to ~~act~~ dispense with any one of them, ~~with find~~ shows that he does not fully comprehend the nature & extent ~~and dignity~~ of his profession.

~~The treatment~~ In the lectures I have delivered upon the Institutes of medicine, I have uniformly considered it a science. Under the impression of this idea I have endeavoured to teach its principles. I ~~do not pretend to~~ dare not say those principles are true. If they are not, they were still necessary to lead to such as are true, — for

truth in all Sciences must be approached ~~have stepping~~ by a Stair case - and this stair case must be composed of principles. However erroneous they may be, the human mind requires them. It cannot advance a step without them. I might illustrate this remark by throwing in ~~positing out the gra-dual and necessary progress~~ that nearly all the great & fundamental truths in Medicine, are composed of a part of the errors which preceded their discovery. They were errors, only because they are fragments of truth out of place. ~~They~~ By altering their position, and disposing them according to their affinities,

they became a part of great integral truths. —

All empirical occupations advance slowly to perfection. This has often been illustrated by ~~the~~ mentioning the immense improvements which have taken place in Agriculture ~~and~~ mechanics ~~since~~ and in the military art which have advanced more in the last 50 years ~~been~~ since they have become the professions or been cultivated by gentlemen of liberal education, ~~They have advanced more in 50 years since this change has taken place~~ ~~They have been taken up by such persons~~ than they had done for centuries before.

The same remark applies to medicine.

~~Since it has assumed the form & character of a Science it has advanced more in 100 years than~~

~~it had done during the~~ It has improved in proportion as it has become a science, and ~~borrowed~~ received aid from all other sciences. It would consume a great deal of time to enumerate the numerous diseases we now cure, that were uniformly fatal two or three hundred years ago. I shall only lay before you a single fact upon this subject. In the year 1791 the city of Philadelphia contained 80,000 inhabitants.

Between v p: 399 of inquiry &c - to 1

In the year 1799 the population of Philad.a amounted ~~was~~ to near 40,000 = p 399 - to 1.

To what shall we ascribe this immense difference in the mortality of the ~~two~~

V practice of physic, Surgery & midwifery.

+ influence would have extended much further in ~~upraising~~ our city in preventing the mortality of diseases had they not been opposed by ~~one of~~ but one of the surviving practical ~~the hereditary~~ errors of the Old School of medicine, I mean the substitution of an absurd & expensive ~~sevactions~~ quarantine law to Domestic Cleanliness as the means of preventing the yellow fever.

In contemplating this ~~immense~~ great

periods that have been mentioned? I
answer, to several important changes in
the physical customs of the citizens of
Philadelphia, but chiefly to the light that
has been shed upon the means of pre=
=serving health, and of preventing and
curing diseases ~~from this University~~ ~~the principles of~~
by the ~~different and succesive Professors of~~ application of principles ~~in~~ to the V
~~medicine.~~ ~~in this University. It was esta=~~ Happily! the beneficial
~~=blished in 1765, and principles tho'~~
~~different in their nature have been taught~~
~~in it ever since.~~ — ~~But~~ ~~from this beneficial~~
effects of these principles have not been confined to this city.
Thousands owe their lives to them in
every part of the United States. Their +
So deeply convinced am I of the
usefulness ~~of the~~

Disproportion of Deaths
~~Diminution of the mortality of diseases~~
in Phila^a ~~compared with~~ to its increase of
inhabitants compared with former years,
~~we~~ are led ~~not only to appreciate our science,~~
~~but~~ to call upon the infidels in medicine
who deny its utility in all, & its certainty in
many diseases, ~~with~~ to blush at their ig=
=norance. We are led ~~likewise~~ duly to appreciate
our Science, and to consider it in its
present improving state as one of the greatest
blessings vouchsafed ~~by~~ Heaven to the Child=
=ren of men.

~~by~~ of principles ~~or~~ or theory in
advantages of ~~hysteria~~ ~~in~~ medicine, ~~that~~
~~while I am able to totter to this chair~~
and of this intimate and ~~necessary~~ indispensable
connection with the diminution of the
mortality of ~~conspire of most~~ diseases, that while I
am able to totter to this chair, ~~I~~ I
shall continue to teach them, and
when I ~~am dead~~ shall cease to exist here, ~~I~~ ~~those~~
~~to whom~~ let those who come after me
inscribe upon my tombstone - "he was
a believer in principles in medicine".

~~In~~ thus defining that I intend
to apply the ~~theory~~ of disease which I have
delivered, ~~to its~~ cure, I ~~a~~ a

The part of our course which applies
principles or ~~theory to the~~ cure of
diseases has been called by p: 2